

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 12944 01 OF 02 151816Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CAB-09 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 FAA-00 SAJ-01

DRC-01 /137 W

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R 151804Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4439

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 12944

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PROR, ETRN, GE, WB, US, UK, FR, UR

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FRENCH CAA ON BERLIN INTER-
NATIONAL AIR SERVICES

REF: (A) STATE 175372, (B) STATE 146137,
(C) STATE 146934, (D) BONN 12747

1. SUMMARY. US AND UK BRIEFED FRENCH
AUGUST 13 RE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT BERLIN AIR SERVICES.
FRENCH CAA HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS BUT REITERATED PRE-
VIOUSLY STATED FRENCH POLITICAL CONCERNS REGARDING
EXPANSION OF BERLIN INTERNATIONAL SERVICES IN THE FACE
OF SOVIET OPPOSITION. HE STRESSED GOF, WHILE NOT
FUNDAMENTALLY OPPOSED, BELIEVED THAT NEW INTERNATIONAL
SERVICES SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERATION AT
POLITICAL LEVEL BEFORE FURTHER ACTION TAKEN. IN
PRECEDING CONVERSATION BRIT CAA TOLD US THAT UK CIVIL
AIR AUTHORITY BELIEVES GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SHOULD NOT
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PAGE 02 BONN 12944 01 OF 02 151816Z

RPT NOT PARTICIPATE IN AIRLINE NEGOTIATIONS. END

SUMMARY.

2. US AND UK CAAS BRIEFED FRENCH CAA/BONN GROUP REP ON AUGUST 13 RE DECISION TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF FURTHER DEVELOPING BERLIN INTERNATIONAL AIR SERVICES ON A COOPERATIVE BASIS. PRESENTATION DREW ON MATERIAL CONTAINED REFTELS AND STRESSED IMPORTANCE US AND UK GOVERNMENTS ATTACHED TO TRIPARTITE UNANIMITY IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDED INTERNATIONAL SERVICES. FRENCH REP LASSUS SAID HE HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION COPY OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY'S REPORT ON THE WASHINGTON MEETING BUT HAD AS YET NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM PARIS. HE OFFERED NO COMMENT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF AIR FRANCE PARTICIPATION AND REITERATED PREVIOUSLY STATED FRENCH CONCERNS RE THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF INITIATING NEW CORRIDOR FLIGHTS TO THIRD COUNTRY DESTINATIONS IN THE FACE OF SOVIET OPPOSITION.

3. LASSUS SAID HE WAS DRAWING ON INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED EARLIER THIS YEAR WHICH MADE CLEAR PARIS' BELIEF THAT FURTHER EXPANSION OF BERLIN INTERNATIONAL SERVICES SHOULD BE PRECEDED BY A CAREFUL TRIPARTITE ANALYSIS OF THE POLITICAL FACTORS INVOLVED FOLLOWED BY CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FRG. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE REFERRED TO THE FRG BONN GROUP REP'S REMARKS CONCERNING LUFTHANSA'S LETTER TO THE FRG TRANSPORT MINISTRY (REF D). SUMMARIZING, LASSUS SAID THAT THE GOF WAS NOT FUNDAMENTALLY OPPOSED TO THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF BERLIN INTERNATIONAL SERVICES BUT BELIEVED THAT REPEATED SOVIET COMPLAINTS WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO FULL ACCOUNT. POLITICALLY BEFORE FURTHER ACTION COULD BE TAKEN. HE PROMISED TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS RE A DEFINITE FRENCH POSITION AND BE BACK IN TOUCH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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PAGE 01 BONN 12944 02 OF 02 151815Z

43

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 12944

4. IN THE ENSUING DISCUSSION, US CAA POINTED OUT THAT THE FRG HAD THUS FAR SHOWN EVERY SIGN OF CONCURRING IN ALLIED INTENTIONS RE NEW INTERNATIONAL ROUTES DESPITE THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME PASSENGER LOSS FOR LUFTHANSA. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY LASSUS RE THE EARLIER BRITISH POSITION THAT A LIMIT SHOULD BE SET ON NEW INTERNATIONAL SERVICES, UK CAA SIDESTEPED BY SAYING HE PRESUMED THAT NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE AIRLINES WOULD PROVIDE A LIMIT DEFINED BY COMMERCIAL REALITIES. HE PROMISED TO GET A CURRENT READING ON UK VIEWS RE AN UPPER LIMIT ON NEW SERVICES.

5. IN A US/UK DISCUSSION PRIOR TO THE ABOVE MEETING IT BECAME CLEAR THAT BRITISH CAA'S INSTRUCTIONS GENERALLY PARALLELED REFTELS EXCEPT THAT LONDON BELIEVED IT WOULD BE GREATLY PREFERABLE IF GOVERNMENT REPS DID NOT
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PAGE 02 BONN 12944 02 OF 02 151815Z

ATTEND AIRLINE TALKS, PARTICULARLY DURING THE FIRST SEVERAL SESSIONS IN ORDER TO AVOID INHIBITING THE CARRIERS. SIMILARLY, THE UK FELT STRONGLY THAT AIR FRANCE SHOULD NOT BE INVITED TO ATTEND UNLESS IT OPTED TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN WHATEVER ARRANGEMENT WAS DEVELOPED. EMBASSY CAA EMPHASIZED STRONG CAB INTEREST IN ATTENDING AIRLINE NEGOTIATIONS AND SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN ACHIEVING FRENCH POLITICAL SUPPORT IF THE GOF AND AIR FRANCE WERE GIVEN THE OPTION TO AT LEAST OBSERVE THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF EVENTS. GROVES SAID HE WOULD SEEK TO DETERMINE FIRMNESS OF THE UK'S POSITION RE ATTENDANCE AT AIRLINE TALKS. IT WAS

AGREED THAT ANY DETAILS CONCERNING THE TALKS COULD BE
OMITTED DURING THIS INITIAL MEETING WITH THE FRENCH
CAA THUS PERMITTING A COORDINATED US/UK PRESENTATION.
HILLENBRAND

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